

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

A method and a controller are provided for controlling the execution of a computer program having multitasking capability on a computing element, ~~especially on a microprocessor,~~ of a controller-(20) for controlling and/or regulating a system. The system may take up various possible system states. At the beginning of the execution of a function, ~~in order that the input variables required for carrying out the function of computer program are present with certainty,~~ the following steps may be executed: subdividing the computer program into a plurality of functionally linked functionalities; defining possible operating states for the functionalities; defining the possible system states of the system, in that specifiable operating states are allocated to the functionalities for each system state; ascertaining the dependencies of the functionalities upon one another, a first functionality ~~being~~ dependent upon a second functionality if at least one input variable of the first functionality is ascertained in the second functionality; and centrally specifying the operating states required for a certain system state, taking into consideration the ascertained dependencies among the functionalities and further boundary conditions.